



CITY NEWS

Serving New Jersey's African-American communities since 1983

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Unemployment rate high for African Americans

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\$312 million response to urban education

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Kevin Powell keeps it real

NEWS BRIEFS**NAACP IMAGE AWARDS WILL HONOR POSITIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

LOS ANGELES, CA—Gregory Hines and Vanessa L. Williams will host the 29th NAACP Image Awards on Valentine's Day in Los Angeles.

The awards program will include presentations of seven awards, including Entertainer of the Year and the Hall of Fame Award. The awards honor positive milestones in film, television, music and literature. The first NAACP Image Award honored Sammy Davis, Jr. for his tireless work to obtain full employment for African American entertainers in Hollywood.

GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL TO INCREASE SPEED LIMIT TO 65 MPH

TRENTON—Governor Christie Whitman signed legislation increasing the speed limit to 65 miles per hour on approximately 50 miles of eligible state highways for an 18-month study period. The Department of Transportation will study the results and make recommendations for improvement in the law within three months of the end of the study period. The recommendations would take effect unless disapproved by the Legislature within 60 days.

The bill signed by the governor also doubles the monetary fine for aggressive driving, a violation of speeding 10 miles per hour over the speed limit in a 65 miles per hour zone and speeding 20 miles per hour over the speed limit in any other speed zone.

SMITH APPOINTED DEPUTY SPEAKER OF STATE ASSEMBLY

TRENTON—Assemblyman Tom Smith was appointed Deputy Speaker of the Assembly by Assembly Speaker Jack Collin.

As Deputy Speaker, Smith takes on third Assembly leadership role. He has been a member of the position of Majority Whip and Assistant Majority Whip.

The Assembly will face many legislative challenges in the coming session and I plan to work closely with my colleagues in leadership to meet the needs of New Jersey's residents.

He has said, "Having served on several committees and committees in the Legislature, I believe I will bring a diversified and experienced view to the Assembly leadership."

POLICE DEPARTMENT GETS AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN CAPTAIN

NEWARK—Sixteen years after she took the police officers exam to "basically prove a point," Barbara George became Newark's first African-American female police captain.

George was one of seven lieutenants promoted to captain during a recent ceremony in Newark's City Hall. Also during the ceremony, Police Director Joseph Santiago announced a "new structure" for the department, and both he and Mayor Sharpe James died this restructuring to the city's efforts to keep down crime.

RESIDENTS WILL RECEIVE WELCOME PROPERTY TAX CUTS

IRVINGTON—Mayor Sarita Bass recently announced that property tax bills will be reduced and there will be a month-long tax amnesty to give homeowners a chance to clear up delinquent bills.

The tax amnesty will show up in bills due February 1 and in May, and the reduction will average \$340 per quarter on a home valued at \$24,000. The reduction was necessary because the township recently overcame a \$17 million deficit. Informing citizens that the program is open to everyone, Mayor Bass said, "Both the tax stabilization and the tax amnesty are part of my policy to ensure the fiscal health of Irvington."

Cities first in Whitman's second term



Governor Christie Whitman takes the oath of office to begin her second term as Governor of New Jersey at her inauguration ceremony at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. With the governor are husband John Whitman, son Taylor, daughter Kate and Chief Justice Debrah Portz.

Photo by g.r. mattox

While Governor Whitman's State of the State address did not give New Jersey's cities much to cheer about,

even her strongest political enemies congratulate her for what she had to say in her inaugural address.

Governor Whitman came to Newark to celebrate her inaugural

evening more liveable, many of these

plan concerned the state of the cities, and her plans for revitalization and renewal. She called for an aggressive strike against urban blight and suburban sprawl. She will provide additional financial assistance to community colleges, and plans to "win the open space race."

Sprawl will also combat suburban sprawl. To further facilitate this, New Jersey has a blueprint for redeveloping and containing sprawl called the State Plan. "Too many towns bend over backwards to attract development, hoping to be the business center for the region," she said. "The State Plan will be the tool that can strain not only their backs but also the services needed to support this development," she said.

The result is a double whammy: less open space and higher property taxes.

The State Plan will be used as a fundamental tool for getting permit to develop and scaling construction development projects.

The governor also announced in her speech she is making a long-term commitment to our community colleges by fully funding the \$12 million increase requested by these institutions. In turn, the community colleges will institute a tuition freeze for the coming year.

Finally, with a concern towards the environment, she wants to preserve 300,000 acres of open space for the ultimate goal of preserving one million acres. Whitman also said that in the next 60 days she will announce a transportation plan that will improve safety on our local roads and increase bus and train lines. She will also commit \$15 million to improve bike and pedestrian paths.

Whitman receives thumbs up for her plans

Photo by g.r. mattox

A group of businessmen and elected officials are looking forward to the Governor putting the plans unveiled in her inaugural address into practice.

Newark Mayor Sharpe James praised her courage and leadership.

"She was a very courageous governor to stand in a city that did not support her, and in front of a predominantly Republican audience, to tell all the people coming with all the state of the state," he said.

The Mayor of East Orange was more than pleased, "I think that the city has close to 350 houses that are boarded up. Bob Bowser looks towards her initiative to rehabilitate such structures and get them back on the tax rolls.

He is also interested in what will actually happen with the \$600 million

for the year 2000," he told her. "As

he sees these how these initiatives develop, "I'll reserve my comment," he said.

Two State assemblies were also positive about what Whitman had to say in this speech, Tom Smith, Assemblyman of the 11th District and recently appointed Deputy Speaker of the State Assembly is looking forward to the

changes that will be made in the cities. "I am very pleased with the money that is going to urban centers because they are still struggling to move forward, they can't do it," he said. Noting that there may finally be a resolution to the blight problem, Smith said, "There are a great number of abandoned buildings that have to be torn down and a great number of structures that have to be repaired."

The Association of the 35th District also praised the Governor's visit. Alfred Steele is committed to working with Whitman "100 percent": "I am impressed with her substance and direction," he said. "But I am also interested in her performance because when I am asking, 'Where is the money?'

Greg Williams of the Mercer County Black Business Association (MCBBA) is

"overly optimistic" about the

about the plans in Whitman's speech,

and can speak from personal experience in business. "I have had the opportunity to write grants for the community," he said. "The Governor installed it for us."

"As president of the MCBBA, I have been privy to plans to enhance business opportunities in the Mercer County area."

Hamilton Bowser, president of the Ebanow Construction Company in East Orange, sees potential in the plans, "I have had the opportunity to work with the Governor and the City Council to install a bus stop," he said.

He has also been working with the African-American community should insist that guidelines include input from the community," he said. "The people who live in these urban areas must have a say in the development made possible by the State funding."

The coming forth ceremony

begins by the playing of African drums followed by the singing of a welcoming dance.

The ceremony itself included the participation of the graduate, her mentor and her mother. A headwrap, or gele, was placed on the graduate's head as a sign of having

the Cathederal-Second Baptist Church in Perth Amboy recently held a "Coming Forth" ceremony and celebration for its 11th Nalab Mentoring Program.

The program is for eight young women completed the program and participated in the event.

The guest speaker was Sister Helen Wade of Washington, DC, who directs a mentoring program in that area.

She spoke of the necessity of having a mentor and conducting your life in such a way as to become a mentor.

The "village daughters" either by phone,

mail, group gatherings or one-on-one

Village daughters are given assignments, and upon completion of these assignments, they earn five points toward their required 200-point total needed to graduate.

Sexuality mentors are a major component of the program.

For example, the Sexuality mentors held a group gathering that included the mothers of their protégés.

After a catered lunch and film presentation, the mentors facilitated a workshop. The Community mentors have taken the girls to a "Habitat for Humanity" project in Newark, on two occasions.

This program was meant to serve as a vehicle to assist parents—primarily mothers—in guiding their daughters through this difficult adolescent stage because this is a very turbulent and perilous and experimental period in a young girl's life," Hillard said.

Mentors periodically contact their

crossed over from childhood to womanhood.

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Officially established in 1995, the program's mission statement "has its foundation in the word of God" and includes seven points of the Bible as its basis. It is open to female church members from 11 to 19.

The two-year program is currently comprised of four "villages," or classes, of up to five girls. Inside the village there is instruction and guidance in several areas: discipline,

creativity, spirituality, and Time Management. A mentor is assigned to each discipline.

Mentors periodically contact their

FCC Chairman Kennard stresses importance of computers in the classroom

NEWARK—FCC Chairman

Chairman Kennard told Newark

elementary school children during a recent visit, "Technology is important to you and your school, now, and the connection you have to the Internet, are the building blocks of your future success.

They are also the way our country's telecommunications system is coming together as a nation—building communities to keep America connected."

He told fourth and fifth graders at Newark's 13th Avenue Elementary School, "I don't have a crystal ball, but I know this—things are changing quickly.

Many schools in this country don't even have one classroom with Internet access. As head of the Federal Communications Commission, I am working hard to ensure that every school child in this country has the same opportunities you do and that we bring modern communications technology to every classroom."

Chairman Kennard's visit to Newark

underscores his commitment to ensuring that the children of America, rich and poor, rural and urban, are prepared for the jobs of the Information Age.

He noted that "within two years, to every classroom in this country, there will be a computer and the Internet will require information technology skills. High tech jobs pay on average 73 percent more in wages than non-high tech jobs. The three fastest growing occupations in America—which are also

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Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

JERSEY CITY—A slide lecture and discussion with Robert Birnbaum will be held at 5 p.m. at The Gothic Lounge, Hepburn Hall, Room 202. For more info, call 201-547-4380.

NEWARK—You are invited to join the Volunteers of Greater Essex County's 6th annual Board of Directors' meeting from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at PBS&G room 206-207. For more info, call 201-676-8899.

NEW BRUNSWICK—TV journalist, Barbara Walters will share her unique life and experience, part of a lecture series, 7:30 p.m., at New Brunswick State Theatre. For more info, call 201-597-1980.

HENRICKSTEAD—Historic Museum presents "Made in Henricstead: African American Trading Traditions" through Mar. 17, at the Rochelle and Irwin A. Lowenthal Gallery, 10th fl., Joan and Donald S. Gordon Library, South Campus from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more info, call 516-463-5672.

JERSEY CITY—Karen DeAngelis, director of the Jersey City College Women's Center, will speak on "How to Finance Your College or Graduate Education" from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. For more info, call 201-200-5189.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

NEWARK—The 9th Annual Board of Directors' Meeting will be held from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at PBS&G, room 206-207. For more info, call 676-8899.

JACKSON—The 22nd annual Mrs. NJ American Pageant is searching for contestants. No performance talent required. For requirements and to receive your official pageant application, call 732-928-9050.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

PLAINFIELD—Act IV Theater will present the 2nd annual Fabulous Follies at 8 p.m. at the parlor hall theater of The First Unitarian Society of Plainfield. For more info, call 908-322-4987.

WEST ORANGE—The Second Annual African-American Art Show and Concert will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Mansion of The Black United Fund of NJ. For more info, call 973-676-2292.

MORRISTOWN—"Kumba", an exhibit of oils, mixed media, watercolor, photography and sculpture showcasing the works of 50 emerging and more renowned African-American artists is on display through March 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Atrium Gallery. For more info, call 201-285-6040.

WAYNE—Humorist Dave Barry to spin his views on politics at William Paterson's distinguished lecturer series which

begins at 8 p.m. in Shea Center. For more info, call 973-720-2971.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

NEW YORK—ERIC JENKINS—American Repertory Ballet debuts as Principal Affiliate of the NJ Performing Arts Center during a week-end engagement. For more info, call 732-249-1254.

METUCHEN—A Kid's Forum at Forum Theatre will present "School House Rock Live!" at 11 a.m. For more info, call 732-546-0582.

TRENTON—Union County College is offering "Sports Spectacular," featuring "basketball" from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. on Saturdays through February 28. For more info, call 908-738-7600.

PLAINFIELD—Area Girl Scouts will be selling cookies in 24 towns through Feb. 28. This year's theme is "Team Up & Win." For more info, call 908-232-3236, ext. 213.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

NEWARK—NJ Symphony Orchestra Principal Guest Conductor, Lawrence L. Smith, will lead the orchestra with special guest pianist Amanda Von Goetz at 8 p.m. For more info, call 201-624-3713.

NEW YORK—You are cordially invited to celebrate the publication of "Amazing Grace, A Life of Beauford Delaney" from 6 to 8 p.m. at Michael Rosenfeld Gallery. For more info, call 212-725-5100.

CALDWELL—Caldwell College will host an open house for high school students and their parents at 1 p.m. in the Alumni Theatre. For more info, call 973-229-4424, ext. 500.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

NEWARK—The renowned Canadian actress and director, Thea Sharrock, returns to the NJ Performing Arts Center to present "The Crown of Destiny", a magical, theatrical adventure that explores Celtic myth and legend. For more info, call 973-297-5804.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

PLAINFIELD—A tutor training math workshop will be held at Plainfield Public Library. For more info, call 908-755-7994.

JERSEY CITY—Jersey City State College offers a six-week preparatory course for the Graduate Record Examination through its Summer Semester Program this spring. The course will meet from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. through March 7th. For more info, call 201-200-5085.

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JERSEY CITY—Jersey City State College offers a six-week preparatory course for the Graduate Record Examination through its Summer Semester Program this spring. The course will meet from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. through March 7th. For more info, call 201-200-5085.

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

NEW BRUNSWICK—The Eleventh Annual Journalism Award for Distinguished Business & Financial Reporting of NJ Issues. Newspapers and magazines are invited to apply and encouraged to enter. For more information, call 908-932-8567. Deadlines for submissions is Feb. 25th.

SOMERSET—A one-day business management workshop, "Small Business Success" will be held at Summit Bank from 7 to 9:30 p.m. For more info, call 908-218-8871.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

NEWARK—Minority Business Journal presents a business builder seminar from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Newark Airport Marriott. For more info, call 908-754-3400.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

WILMINGTON—A general meeting seminar, "Fundamentals of Electronic Commerce" will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. at Hewlett Packard. For more info, call 215-893-9977.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

NORTH BRANCH—Learn the details of accounting needs for the small business at a one-day workshop at the Institute for Business & Professional Development from 7 to 9:30 a.m. For more info, call 908-218-8871.

BEDMINSTER—You're invited to attend a monthly networking social from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Kings. For more info, call 908-725-1552.

ORLANDO—The New Management Conference on business-based virtual communities. For a full conference brochure, call 1-800-245-8465.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

NEW BRUNSWICK—The NJ State Bar Foundation presents a free public seminar on the attorney-client privilege from 7 to 9:30 a.m. at the NJ State Bar Center. For more info, call 800-200-FREE-LAW.

Books

Best-selling author offers best business opportunities

NEW YORK—From George Fraser, pioneering author of the national best-seller *Race For Success*, a growing list of guides for personal and professional success for African Americans, comes the highly anticipated follow up, *Race For Success: The Ten Best Business Opportunities for Blacks in America* (published by HarperCollins).

Dynamic, charismatic and unrelentingly upbeat even in the face of daunting odds, Fraser is currently in great demand as a motivational speaker, delivering over 200 lectures annually for students and executives nationwide.

Fraser's new book *Race For Success* is both a warning and a stimulus for Black people in America, as Blacks enter their final major assignment: creating wealth for Black people worldwide.

In *Race For Success*, Fraser provides a blueprint for harnessing

Business-to-business marketing:

The new frontier for minority business

By Eric R. Elmore

It is estimated that more than three million minority businesses are operating in the United States. Furthermore, new minority-owned businesses are opening at a rate of over 7,000 a month. For minorities in general, these numbers are encouraging, but for minority business owners, these numbers represent increased competition in the marketplace.

For the first time in our nation's history, minority-owned businesses are competing against each other and mainstream businesses for the dollars and loyalties of consumers and other businesses. While some minority dollars are beginning to recognize the growing benefits of business-to-business relationships. These relationships generally yield higher average sales and tend to be on a contract basis. For example, a consumer will buy a six-pack of soda with one obli-

ation to buy another. On the other hand, a restaurant chain will buy 2,000 six-packs for their 15 locations, and may be contract to do so on a monthly basis for a full year.

Identifying the types of businesses that will most likely need your products or services is the first step in planning your business-to-business marketing campaign. This is a critical first step in order to start is your own customer base. Look closely at any corporate account you may have. Then you'll want to take all the key characteristics of the most lucrative corporate accounts and find prospects who fit those characteristics. This is called "targeting" and it is the key to success for any business owner. If you see where your service can be used, prepare a proposal demonstrating how your service can benefit the prospect's business. Be specific. Use industry numbers and information to justify your conclusions and direct your

islands and assume they will have similar needs and buying habits.

Some companies are strictly constrained to do so at least they think are. These companies that used to market only to consumers are beginning to put creative pitches together to sell to busi-

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Controlling Your Suggestive Environment

By Michael A. Grant, J.D.

We've all heard the old axiom: "Birds of a feather flock together." But have you ever asked yourself why they do?

Being aware of who we choose to spend our quality time with and knowing these people will wield power and influence on our thoughts and actions is something worth pondering. Consciously or subconsciously, we are building lives for ourselves that will come to believe are heavens or hells. The future is shaped in great measure by the people whom we allow to share our sacred space today.

Think about it. How did your spouse (or significant other) respond the last time you enthusiastically mentioned an idea that could lead you back to school, or to opening a business, or to controlling your weight, or whatever?

People with whom we associate can make or break us. They can convince us that we don't have the right qualities, that we are not what it should be or they can help create a synergy that convinces us that all manner of things are possible.

If we are constantly hearing words of limitation and defeat from those with whom we associate, then those "definite intentions" or "subconscious unworthiness" is being revealed to us. If, on the other hand, the words of our companions are as cheering throngs, we know that our own will to succeed is strong indeed.

If we are surrounded by influences that are clearly positive, encouraging, supportive, dream-sharing friends and associates, how, you might be asking, does one deal with family members with whom one is forced to share space? The answer is simple: if they are negative, then, unfortunately, it is a case of "right-or-good" enough individuals, you may not want to limit their place in your heart, but, for survival's sake, you must limit them space in your life.

Consciously or subconsciously, our environments are our responsibility and ours alone. Our lives are our kingdoms. Just as we would not invite wild, vicious predators into the places where we live, we should guard against those who come to drain the life out of our best intentions or efforts.

The flip side of the coin is equally valid. It is imperative that we not allow our ill-tempered moods to cloud out the sunshines of our enthusiasm in our own ideas or dreams. If we cannot encourage their efforts, we can, at least, acknowledge their good intentions. Human beings are social animals. And contrary to the tenets of rugged individualism or to the odd, isolated contemplations of a narcissistic "Me Generation," we desperately need each other.

So, since we must depend on each other, why not choose to be and to surround ourselves with positive energy. Doing so will encourage our counterparts to go out with expectations for life's limitless possibilities and then we will come to understand why birds of a feather need to flock together.

Rose of Sharon
Community Church
present

"The Reason Why We Sing"

Choir Prayer Breakfast
February 7, 8 a.m.-noon

featuring
Rose of Sharon Voices of Praise
and speakers
Minister Doris Gray
Minister David Wyatt
Minister Valerie Yancy

Donation: \$5

Rose of Sharon Community Church
825 West Seventh Street
Plainfield, NJ

Creating Your Future

By Junius Ricardo Stanton

What you see or create in your mind's eye and what you tend to dwell upon has a way of manifesting itself in your life, good or bad. It is part and parcel of our powers of creativity. Humans are creative beings. We have the power to visualize, to create mental images and formulate plans in the non-material realm of our minds. It is from these plans, images and visions that we forge our future.

What do you want out of life? What do you want to do, be or have? Do you think it will happen automatically just because you want it to? What will it take for your dreams and aspirations to become reality? Just

because you think or create an image in your mind doesn't mean it will spontaneously come to pass. Many of our daydreams and fantasies never come true. However, the difference between a daydream and a serious belief is the time and energy we are willing to invest in making them come true.

Our daydreams and fantasies are just mental fabrications. We don't take them seriously and we certainly don't take any action to make them real. Great ambitions and objectives are different. True, they start out as ideas, images or visions, just as doubts and apprehensions to do what it takes to achieve your goals? Think well on these questions because your answers and your willingness to act will determine what you achieve in life.

I and don't know why. Even people who have acquired the status of material success and social status are not happy or fulfilled. They are baffled and perplexed as to why this is so. As a result, myriad of self-destructive behaviors are manifesting themselves—addictions, suicide, familial dysfunction and personal breakdowns are rampant.

In America there is a phenomenon called the mid-life crisis which in my opinion is nothing more than a misguided attempt to make sense out of the lack of content in one's life. In disappointment, many people are experiencing. It's a sort of mid-course adjustment.

Kaaren Patterson exhibit celebrates holiness

BLOOMFIELD—Bloomfield College's Westminster Art Gallery proudly presents "Ordinary Altars," an exhibition by Kaaren Patterson which runs through Feb. 24. The College will host an artist's reception on Sunday, Jan. 25 from 1 to 4 p.m., and the public is invited to attend.

"Each life, no matter how illustrious, is attached to the ordinariness of being and to the most basic images and objects of which our life for joy, pain, death, love, loss or faith. With 'Ordinary Altars' I hope to show how mundane and insignificant objects can telescope a glimpse of the Divine."

For more information on the exhibition and the Westminster Art Gallery, call the Office of Student Affairs at 973-748-9000, ext. 243.

Children of color get a Bible of their own

TERESA M. BROWN

TERESA M. BROWN</

Artz Wednesday

CITY NEWS 8

Billboard

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

NEW BRUNSWICK—The State Theatre presents Ballet du Capitole de Toulouse 8 p.m. For more info, call 732-467-7469.

NEW YORK—The great blues Diva, the Sandra Wright Band will perform at Manny's Car Wash at 9:30 p.m. For more info, call 212-369-1758.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

SOMERVILLE—The Coasters, The Drifters and The Platters will perform 8 p.m. at The Theater at Barron's Valley Community College. For more info, call 908-225-3420.

NEW YORK—Loch Smith and The Frost, the 18 year old blues guitar sensation will perform at Manny's Car Wash at 9:45 p.m., 11:30 p.m. and 1:15 a.m. For more info, call 212-369-7469.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

NEW YORK—Manny's world famous blues jam hosted by A&M recording artist, Todd Wolfe will perform at Manny's Car Wash starting at 9:15 p.m. For more info, call 212-369-1758.

NEW YORK—The NJ Symphony Orchestra will present a pops program featuring the music of George Gershwin at 8 p.m., at the State Theater. For more info, call 201-624-3713.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

NEW YORK—African Festival: Drumming and Dances of Ghana—COADAAI will be performed 8 p.m. at Symphony Space. For more info, call 212-545-7356.

WOODBRIDGE—The All Sessions Chamber Players will perform a special program of chamber music entitled Sessions in Concert at the historic Barron Arts Center at 8 p.m. For more info, call 732-334-0413.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

NEW YORK—African Festival: Sounds of Nubia will be performed at 8 p.m. at Symphony Space. For more info, call 212-545-7356.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

NEW YORK—Sounds of Portugal will be performed at The Newark Museum 1:30 p.m. For more info, call 1-800-ALLEGRO.

NEW YORK—The String Trio of New York, the chamber jazz ensemble brings their program of jazz classics to the Wailes Recital Hall as part of Great Performers at Lincoln Center's "Sunday Mornings at 11" one-hour concert with coffee series. For more info, call 212-583-7700.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

PRINCETON—Cassandra Wilson, jazz vocalist will perform at the McCarter Theater for the Performing Arts at 8 p.m. For more info, call 609-642-9040.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

NEW YORK—Spirituals, gospel, blues, and jazz will be performed at the NJ Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. For more info, call 973-642-0404.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

MARPLEWOOD—"The Watson Trip," Brahms' Quartet in C Minor for piano and strings will perform at Prospect Presbyterian Church at 3:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. For more info, call 973-762-8498.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

NEW BRUNSWICK—"To Kill a Mockingbird" will be performed at Barron Arts Theater 6 p.m. at the George Street Playhouse. For more info, call 732-634-0413.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

NEWARK—A tribute to George Walker in celebration of his 75th birthday. This diamond jubilee will be held 1:30 p.m. at The Newark Museum. For more info, call 212-545-7356.

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(908)469-7932
Fax (908)469-7520

Jersey Jazz group performs at Top Brass

NEWARK—A new and emerging jazz group, Charlie Slade and the Jazz Creations, composed of professional musicians and a former singer with the Shirelles, is bringing to the national music scene years of experience playing with some of the greats of jazz and popular music.

On January 29, from 6:30 p.m. to midnight, the group will be performing at the Robert Treat Hotel's Top Brass in Newark, New Jersey.

Slade, an East Orange resident who founded the group, has been nicknamed "Mr. Drums" because of his intricate drum styling. He's a veteran musician, and has per-

formed with Sonny Stitt, the Four Clefs, and Gloria Coleman, to name a few.

Slade's Jazz Creations features Gail Allen of Passaic, New Jersey, the band's vocalist who has performed with the legendary Shirelles singing group, Arthur Prysock and Jimmy Witherspoon.

Formed less than a year ago, the group is currently making plans to go into the studio to make a recording of their own. The Arista label, which will feature such tunes as "I Found a Way," "Believe," "Don't Cha Go Away Mad," and "Lush Life."

"Putting together the group, I knew the way to have people who have played with the best and who can entertain their audiences," Slade said.

Showtime Presents "Blind Faith" In February



•Drama Stars Courtney B. Vance, Charles S. Dutton, Lorette McKee and Kadeem Hardison

LOS ANGELES—The relationship between two brothers, one a police officer and the other a key to turn when the captain's son is accused of murder in the Showtime Original Picture *Blind Faith*. Premiering exclusively on Showtime on February 1 at 8 p.m. (ET/PT) as part of the network's celebration of Black History Month, *Blind Faith* stars Courtney B. Vance, Charles S. Dutton, Lorette McKee and Kadeem Hardison and is directed by Ernest Dickerson from a script by Frank Military. The executive producers are Maeve Neufeld and Robert Rehme.

It is the 1950s in the Bronx and John Williams (Vance) is a criminal defense attorney who has always looked up to his older brother Charles (Dutton), a police officer. Charles has worked hard his entire life, but his path has always been the accepted course as laid out by the white establishment. Younger brother Eddie (Hardison) is a jazz musician whose speech and thoughts are filled with the rumblings of the budding civil rights movement.

One night Charlie Jr. (Garland Whitt, the son of Charles and his wife, Diane) comes home to find his brother murdering a white boy. John takes on the task of defending his nephew, but it quickly becomes apparent that Charlie Jr. is not telling him the truth.

The investigation and trial lead John to a crossroads that forces him to leave the police department and force John to reassess his own belief of what it means to be a black man in America.

With swift and deadly precision, these voracious serpents swarm through the dark passageway, devouring all living things in sight, and transforming the vessel into a floating chamber of horrors. For the few remaining survivors, remaining on board who are able to elude the bone-chilling creatures, the only hope remains awaiting them in every turn.

Trapped in the middle of nowhere and stalked by the relentless invaders that have entwined themselves throughout the entire ship, time is running for the last of the survivors, including Finnegan and his crew hurry to pursue their one chance to escape the bloodthirsty rambage.

Other players in this movie include Clifton Powell and Clifton "Maceo" Housou, who plays Vito, most recently received wide acclaim starring as Cinque, the leader of the Africans' rebellion against their captors in Steven Spielberg's "Amistad."

The Amistad is played by Clifton Powell. Powell starred as "Clyde" in the critically acclaimed Hughes Brothers feature "Dead Presidents." Other feature film credits include "Menace II Society," "House Party" and "Three Ninjas."

Djimon Honsou recently played the character "Cinque" in the movie "Amistad."

LOS ANGELES—Hollywood Pictures' newest action thriller "Deep Rising" opens at theaters nationwide on January 30.

From the bottomless depths of the South China Sea, grotesque creatures surface to attack and cannibalize the passengers on a luxury cruise liner.

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Other feature film credits include "Menace II Society," "House Party" and "Three Ninjas."

For more information, call 1-888-GO-NJPC.

Kevin Powell is keepin' it real



Kevin Powell

By Lynne d. Johnson

Kevin Powell, best known for his short-lived role on MTV's first year of *The Real World* (1992), grew up in Jersey City. After graduating from Henry Street High School, Kevin attended Rutgers University, where he studied Political Science and English and became a prominent student leader.

Kevin didn't become an author immediately. Nor was MTV knocking on his dorm room door at Rutgers. Kevin was a social worker in Newark, NJ, an English instructor at New York University, and freelanced for several

publications, including *The Amsterdam News*, *Rolling Stone*, *Essence*, *Entertainment Weekly*, and *The New York Times* before landing a role on the first year of *The Real World*.

MTV gave Kevin the exposure he needed to further pursue his dream-writing. Kevin landed a job at MTV's *Video Jockey* as a VJ at VIBE, Kevin wrote stories and profiles, including articles on General Colin Powell, Snoop Doggy Dogg, and Tupac Shakur, among other musical and social and political persons. He also hosted and wrote for the website *MTV.com* and *MTV.com* *From the Hood*, produced and produced HBO's *Vibe Five*. A dedicated poet, Kevin has had his work across the world.

In his new book, *Keepin' It Real*, Kevin chronicles the year that shaped who he is and who he is trying to become, including the effects of being raised in poverty by a single mother whom he felt abandoned him emotionally.

In *Keepin' It Real*, using a letter style to his mother, we learn about Kevin and his past. The Love Letters chapter, especially, is the most revealing, with Kevin writing to his mother about his tendancies and difficulties, and in a letter to the reader, he views his problems, and the problems of youth culture within today's political landscape.

Puff Daddy presents a \$3 million check to the Christopher Trust Fund

NEW YORK—Puff Daddy, along with Clive Davis, President of Arista Records, recently presented a three million dollar check to the Christopher Trust Fund. The check was made to the Weingarten Foundation, which houses the Christopher Trust Fund.

"I'll Be Missing You" features vocal performances by the brothers and 112, the single was written by Faith Evans and Todd Gauthier and produced by Combs and Stevie J. The song was inspired by the Police hit, "Every Breath You Take."

Spike Lee and Charles Oakley kick-off all star weekend

NEW YORK—Elmendorf, Spike Lee and New York Knicks Charles Oakley will host the All Star Kickoff Bash on Thursday, February 5, starting at 8 p.m. at Bridgewater in New York City. Presented by Behind the Bench, which consists of the National Basketball Wives Association and the National Basketball Women's Association, the event will benefit the

United Negro College Fund and Behind the Bench charities.

"I'll Be Missing You" features vocal performances by the brothers and 112, the single was written by Faith Evans and Todd Gauthier and produced by Combs and Stevie J. The song was inspired by the Police hit, "Every Breath You Take."

Finally a **POSITIVE** magazine for urban teens

With a subscription to YES, teens get all the information they need to succeed in today's complex world.



For only \$15 a year, for 10 issues, teens get useful tips on:

- Getting ahead in school
- Various career paths
- Preparing for the workplace
- Inside the entertainment business
- Different cultures
- Science, math innovations & brain teasers
- A look at schools
- SAT tips
- Teen Internet web sites
- Current event
- Other successful teens
- And much, much more!

Send a check or money order for \$15 (1 year, 10 issues) to:

YES Magazine, P.O. Box 191,
Plainfield, NJ 07043

or call 908-754-4470.

Bring/mail ads to:
144 North Avenue
Plainfield, NJ. 07060

Legal Notice

Classified/Legals

Legal Notice

HOUSING AUTHORITY BOROUGH OF RED BANK

NOTICE FOR ARCHITECT/ENGINEER

The Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the Borough of Red Bank is inviting submission from professional architectural/engineering firms regarding an Urban Funded Comprehensive Improvement Assistance Program (CIAPI). The scope of work includes:

- a. Survey Service Line
- b. Water Main Lines and Shut-Off Valves
- c. Roof Gutters and Downspouts

This scope of services will include: preparation of plans and specifications for construction bidding, assistance in awarding bids and construction inspection.

Submittal should include profiles of the firms principals and staff, evidence of current New Jersey registration and a certified statement that the firm is not delisted, suspended or otherwise prohibited from professional practice by any federal, state or local agency.

All submittals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

EVALUATION FACTORS

1. Evidence of professional and technical competence and experience demonstrating ability to perform the services on projects of similar scope and complexity

WEIGHT - 3

2. Capacity to provide professional services in a timely manner

WEIGHT - 2

3. Past performance in terms of cost control, quality of work and compliance with performance schedule.

WEIGHT - 3

4. Knowledge of State and local building codes and HUD regulations

WEIGHT - 2

5. General responses to the invitation including demonstrated understanding of HUD modernization

WEIGHT - 1

6. Fee proposal

WEIGHT - 1

Interested architectural/engineering firms should respond by 10:00 a.m., February 3, 1998 to Mary H. Harrison, P.H.M., Executive Director, Housing Authority, Borough of Red Bank, P.O. Box 2158, Red Bank, NJ. 07701-0902.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

AGENDA WORK SESSIONS

6:30 P.M.

REGULAR/PUBLIC MEETINGS 7 P.M.

JANUARY 4 (REORGANIZATION)

JANUARY 15 (REORGANIZATION)

JANUARY 29 (REORGANIZATION)

FEBRUARY 19* (REORGANIZATION)

FEBRUARY 26* (REORGANIZATION)

MARCH 5 (REORGANIZATION)

MARCH 12 (REORGANIZATION)

APRIL 9 (REORGANIZATION)

APRIL 26* (REORGANIZATION)

MAY 7 (REORGANIZATION)

MAY 21* (REORGANIZATION)

JUNE 4* (REORGANIZATION)

JUNE 18 (REORGANIZATION)

JULY 2 (REORGANIZATION)

JULY 16 (REORGANIZATION)

AUGUST 6 (REORGANIZATION)

AUGUST 20 (REORGANIZATION)

SEPTEMBER 3 (REORGANIZATION)

SEPTEMBER 17 (REORGANIZATION)

OCTOBER 1 (REORGANIZATION)

OCTOBER 15 (REORGANIZATION)

NOVEMBER 5 (REORGANIZATION)

DECEMBER 3 (REORGANIZATION)

DECEMBER 17* (REORGANIZATION)

*COMINDED AGENDA SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING

***YOUTH IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT DAY - 3:00 P.M.

RE-OPENING OF THE WAITING LIST FOR SENIOR CITIZEN UNITS HOUSING AUTHORITY TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE

By Order of the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge, and in accordance with Regulation #1268 formerly adopted on 1/15/98, the Authority will open its waiting list to applicants for federally subsidized low-income housing (0 to 1) bedroom units for persons qualifying as elderly families only for an indefinite period of time.

Elderly is defined as a family whose head or spouse (or sole member) is at least 62 years of age. It may include one or more persons, including live-in aides, determined to be essential to the care and well-being of the elderly person or persons. An elderly family may include other persons or individuals and other family members who are not elderly.

Interested parties or their representatives are invited to pick up an application at the Woodbridge Housing Authority, 1000 Broad Street, Suite 200, Woodbridge, New Jersey, Monday thru Friday, between normal working hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or may contact the office at (732) 634-2750 for additional information. All applications will be received on a first come-first-serve basis 24

Peter J. Ansara, Executive Director
Woodbridge Housing Authority

PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY ATTORNEY

The Housing Authority of the City of Salem is seeking proposals from attorney/law firms to serve as legal counsel to the Authority. Proposals should be written to the Authority and should include the following factors which shall be used by the Authority in evaluating proposals:

1. Experience as Housing Attorney Counsel

2. Knowledge of and experience with Federal HUD Public Housing Regulations and Procedures

3. Experience with Federal and State Public Assistance Law, in particular Low Income Contracts Law.

The contract period will be one year.

Information packages will be available to all interested parties at the Housing Authority office. Proposals must be submitted to the address below and must be received no later than Tuesday, January 27, 1998 at 2:00 p.m.

Ruth O. Gross, P.H.M., Executive Director
Housing Authority of the City of Salem
205 Seventh Street
Salem, NJ 08079
(908) 639-9222

ADVERTISING FOR BIDS

DOMESTIC HOT WATER REPLACEMENT AT SEAVIEW MANOR LONG BRANCH HOUSING AUTHORITY

Separate sealed bids for Domestic Hot Water System Replacement at the Seaview Manor Housing Complex, Long Branch, New Jersey, Administration Building, P.O. Box 337, Long Branch, NJ.

The Long Branch Housing Authority will receive sealed bids by February 4, 1998 at the office of Executive Director until 2:00 p.m., preceding time, and then at 8:00 a.m. on February 5, 1998.

Bid must be submitted prior to the designated time for acceptance and opening of bids, and may be submitted either by mail or in person, by the BIDDER or his agent. Bids will not be accepted after designated time.

A Pre-Bid meeting is scheduled for January 29, 1998 at 11:00 a.m. to be held at the Housing Authority Office at Garfield Court. The Pre-Bid meeting is not mandatory but attendance is strongly recommended.

Bids must be enclosed in sealed envelopes bearing the words "BID FOR" and marked "BID" for the Domestic Hot Water System Replacement at the Seaview Manor, Long Branch Housing Authority.

The Information for Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Payment of Bid and Form of Bid Bond, Performance and Payment Bond, and other contract documents may be examined at

Long Branch Housing Authority offices and Sunbeam Engineers at 1000 Broad Street, Suite 200, Black Horse Plaza, Woodbridge, NJ 07095.

Copies may be obtained at the office of The Long Branch Housing Authority, located at Administration Building-Garfield Court, Long Branch, NJ upon payment of a fee of \$10.00 per set (non-refundable). Checks shall be payable in the amount of \$10.00 to "Long Branch Housing Authority".

Each Proposal shall be accompanied by a guarantee payable to the Housing Authority that if a contract is awarded, the bidder will enter into a contract thereon, and shall furnish a Performance Bond (100% of the total amount of the bid) and a Payment Bond (50% of the bid), to be paid at the time of the award of the D.O.R. by certified check, cashier's check or Bid Bond.

The surety company for Bid Bonds and the surety company for the Performance and Payment Bonds must be located in New Jersey, State and must be approved by the Federal Treasury.

The owner reserves the right to waive any information or to reject any or all bids.

Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirements as to conditions of employment to be observed and minimum wage rates to be paid under the contract.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within 60 days after the date of the opening thereof.

January 15, 1998 David A. Brown, PHM
Executive Director

APARTMENTS AND PUBLIC NOTICE

SENIOR PUBLIC HOUSING

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

1000 THIRD AVE., ASBURY PARK

MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS ONLY

Place your

legal ad here

call 908-754-3400

Most meetings are held on Thursday evenings. Agenda sessions begin at 6:30 p.m. and regular public meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the Friendships Meeting Room, 6th floor, Administration Building, 1000 Broad Street, Asbury Park, New Jersey, unless otherwise specified.

Persons requiring a sign language interpreter should contact the Clerk of the Board at (908) 527-4140, or telecommunications device for the deaf relay service #908 527-1232.

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

RESOLUTION NO. 44-98

DATE: 1-15-98

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union that it hereby

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is hereby desired that the Board be authorized to amend Resolution No. 44-98 to move the schedule of regular meetings, which is attached hereto, and in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 10:4-16; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of said amendment be forwarded to the Clerk of the Board in the place or places usually resorting.

such public notices, made by the Clerk of the Board to the news media officials designated to receive such notices, as the Clerk of the Board may determine.

Board with the County Clerk of Union County, all of the above to be accomplished within seven (7) days of the date of this Resolution in compliance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 10:4-18; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of the Resolution be forwarded to the Clerk of the Board in the place or places usually resorting.

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Local Briefs

PNC Bank grant enhances minority student program

Cranford—Union County College has received a \$5,000 contribution from PNC Bank to benefit the community college's Minorities in Engineering (MIE) Project that provides college and career exploration for students in mathematics, science, and engineering. Minorities have been traditionally underrepresented in these areas. Completely funded by corporate contributions, the American Association of Higher Education has recognized the project as an exemplary program.

The College will apply the funds to support the operating costs of an expanded MIE Project, which now serves some 400 minority high school students and minority students countywide. Minorities working in these fields act as industry "hubs" and serve as counselors and role models for the students.

Restoring faith in education is theme of Catholic Schools week

SCOTCH PLAINS—Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains will be celebrating Catholic Schools week January 26-30, with a number of events, some open to the public. "The general theme 'Catholic Schools Restores Faith' and emphasizes the Catholic foundation of our schools—a curriculum infused in values, high academic standards and discipline," according to principal Sister Percyce Hart. For more information on these activities, please call 908-889-9475.

Acting housing director plans 'user friendly' operation

IRVINGTON—A real estate investor/developer and entrepreneur has been tapped to lead the nine-member Irvington Department of Housing and Development.

John Wadsworth, an East Orange resident, assumed the job of acting director on January 14, filling an 11-month vacancy in the position. In making the appointment, Irvington Mayor Michael J. Mori, who possesses a rich, extensive business background, which will greatly benefit the Township of Irvington. As someone who has been on the other side, who has been subjected to inspections for the buildings and buildings, Mr. Wadsworth will bring innovative ideas to the table in our new era of housing services.

The centerpiece of the department, Washington said, will be having a "user friendly" operation. We want everyone, "the average citizen, homeowner or businessman to understand they have a friend here," Washington said.

History of New Jersey women now in print

TRENTON—The New Jersey Historical Society has published *New Jersey Women: A History of Their Status, Roles, and Images*, by Carmela Ascolese Karantzos, a professor of history at Jersey City State College. The book is the only one-volume narrative history of the role of women in the evolution of New Jersey society.

Four of the book's chapters focus on the efforts of New Jersey women to achieve better lives for themselves and their families and a greater role in society. The book also highlights employment, work in reform and social welfare, and political activism. A separate chapter on women's clothing discusses what clothing can tell us about attitudes towards women throughout the centuries.

In contrast to earlier times, most contemporary women have at least two jobs and many other responsibilities. They still run their households, but they also work for pay, and pursue a number of other activities from politics to social reform.

To order the book, call the NJ Historical Commission, 609-292-6062, fax 609-633-8168.

Planetaryium Offers "Scouting Astronomy" Program

The New Jersey State Museum Planetaryium will present "Scouting Astronomy" on Saturday, February 14 and March. The programs are designed to aid scouts studying for astronomy merit badges. However, it is not necessary to be a scout to attend a program.

This over popular program attracted over 300 scouts to the Planetaryium in 1997. This year's topics include: finding your way around the night sky, bright planets of different seasons, and the latest information from space probes such as Galileo and Pathfinder. Special attention will be given this year to meteor showers, especially the Leonid shower in mid-November, which could prove to be spectacular.

"Scouting Astronomy" will be offered February 7, 14, 21, and 28, and March 7, 14, and 21. All scouts and groups need attend only one session. Admission is \$15.00 per person and advance reservations are necessary. For more information on the program, call 609-292-6303 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Union County CASA program

ELIZABETH—Every day children are placed outside their natural home by the Division of Youth and Family Services. They are sent to live in foster homes, group homes, sheltered residential schools and medical facilities. These children are in placement due to abuse, neglect, or death of a parent or legal guardian.

Union County Court Appointed Special Advocate Program or CASA conduct on-site, in-person and/or telephone interviews. They interview parents, children, teachers,

agency personnel, relatives and foster parents. Through these interviews the CASAs are able to monitor the compliance or non-compliance of a court order.

CASAs do not go into court. They work independently but with the Child Placement Review Board (CPRB). CASAs submit written reports based on their investigation to the CPRB and Family Court. The CPRB is a citizens review process mandated by law to review cases of these children.

Through CASAs hard work, the

CPRB make every attempt to make certain that these children do not remain in placement for longer than is necessary before permanency is restored to live with parents for a child's legal rights related to permanent stabilization is restored, adoption, long term foster care, placement with a relative, or individual stabilization.

Since a CASA is an arm of the Superior Court, Family Division, a record check is mandatory as well as references checks and an in person

interview. There will be approximately 15 hours of training by staff, experienced CASA's and professionals from related fields. In-service training is provided throughout the year in various associated areas.

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Business Student receives scholarship from SCORE



Yvonne Marie Prophet, in photo at center, receives her SCORE scholarship and Nathan Hart Award from Charles Scherwin, at right, and ECC professor, left.

NEWARK—Orange resident Yvonne Marie Prophet, a 1997 graduate of Essex County College (ECC), is the latest ECC student to benefit financially from the college's relationship with a national organization.

Prophet recently was presented with a \$1,000 scholarship from Charles Scherwin, a volunteer with the local chapter of SCORE, the Service Corp of Retired Executives. She also received a plaque designating her the winner of SCORE's 1997 National Scholarship in Excellence in Business.

"I enjoy meeting and helping out the students," said Scherwin, a West Orange resident and retired accountant who has become acquainted with ECC when he taught some computer classes at the college's West Essex campus in West Caldwell.

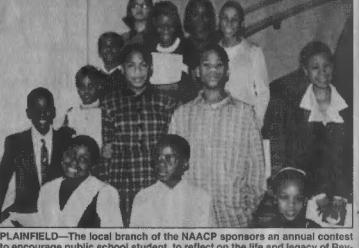
Scherwin said he was impressed with ECC and contacted the college last year to inquire about the scholarship. "I heard about SCORE had scholarship money and wanted to know if we were interested in participating which, of course, we were," recalled Michael Mukabi, coordinator of student scholarships at ECC. To be considered for the SCORE scholarship, a student must have a minimum 3.5 GPA and be a business or accounting major.

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Students are winners in MLK contest



PLAINFIELD—The local branch of the NAACP sponsors an annual contest to encourage public school students to reflect on the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Each year students have received recognition by the Plainfield Branch for their contributions.

The 1998 Martin Luther King, Jr. Coloring and Essay contest selects one child for each grade to be a winner in the contest. The winners in this years contest are: first grade, Shantay Jones of Cedarbrook School; second grade, Janai Wade of Cedarbrook School; third grade, Jaquan Sterling of Stillman School; Kindergarten, Shaynahay Jones of Cedarbrook School; Second Round: fourth grade, Jessie R. Ross of Barrow School; fifth grade, Shantay Jones of Cedarbrook School; sixth grade, T. Peterson of Maxon Middle School; seventh grade, Alaya Clark of Maxon Middle School; Third Round: eighth grade, Camille Alston of Hubbard Middle School; ninth grade, Shanaphia Hicks of Plainfield High School; tenth grade, Neysa Pyle of Plainfield High. Top Row: eleventh grade, India Watkins of Plainfield High, and twelfth grade, Tania Good of Plainfield High.

Learning center brings computer skills to seniors

PLAINFIELD—Presbyterian Homes & Services, Inc. is pleased to announce that two affordable housing communities have established Neighborhood Networks Learning Centers to teach computer skills to seniors at mid-levels and assisted living. The Neighborhood Network is a computer user, and is being trained in basic elements of the system. Graduation ceremonies will celebrate completion of the introductory course. "We like the community involvement of the Plainfield Foundation and the opportunity to provide a learning center for seniors," says Michael Petrucci, President of PHS. "It helps our residents stay connected with vital forces locally while staying up to date with technology," states Ms. Petrucci.

"PHS supports activities that encourage senior interests and involvement with stay at home, on the job and independent life. The Network Program will gradually expand to other PHS affordable housing communities, beginning with Friendship Gardens in Howell," says Gary Punia, President of PHS. "We are thrilled the program is so successful and look forward to its expansion."

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